

Georgia Department of Education Office of the State Superintendent of Schools Twin Towers East Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5001 Web Page: http://www.doe.k12.ga.us

Linda C. Schrenko State Superintendent of Schools

(404) 651-9085 FAX: (404) 657-9188 http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/nutrition/snp.html April 28, 2000

FD2000 Project Coordinator Food Distribution Division - FNS 3101 Park Center Drive Ford Avenue Bldg. – Room 601 Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Dear Project Coordinator:

As the Public Relations Specialist for the School and Community Nutrition Division, Georgia Department of Education, the following comments are submitted about the February 14, 2000, USDA Proposal for change.

In my frequent contacts with Georgia schools and school systems, I have not heard complaints or problems with the USDA Food Distribution Program. In fact, I have actually heard many positive comments and praise for the positive effects of both nutritious commodities and financial positions from maximum utilization of USDA foods, seen innovative ideas using USDA products, and have witnessed acceptance by customers in the cafeteria setting.

Any change in this program should keep as the primary focus, nutrition, food safety, and the American farmer.

It appears from reviewing the 16 proposed changes that there are several which, if applied to the current program, would make improvement toward the items you identified as "problems" under Section I. USDA Proposal for Change numbers 2, 5 based on implementation, 8, 9, 10, 11, and truckload restrictions part of number 15 appear to be positive changes.

Use of commercial labels and full substitutability of commodity product are strictly opposed. Implementation of these would definitely create problems.

Could the comments received about this proposal for change be published for public access? Thank you.

Sincerely,

Whitney L. Wright

Public Relations Specialist

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